**Cancellation of licence granted to M.T.N.L. to operate cellular**

621. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (T.R.A.I.) decided to cancel the licence granted to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to operate Cellular Services in Delhi and Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) TRAI in their order dated 17.02.98 held the grant of licence issued by DOT to MTNL to commence and carry on the business of providing Mobile Cellular Telephone Services as also the paging services in Delhi & Mumbai as invalid because of non-compliance of provisions of clause (a) of sub-section 1 of Section 11 of TRAI ACT. The DOT filed an appeal in the Hon'ble High Court. The Judgment of Hon'ble High Court is awaited. The case is thus subjudice.

**M.T.N.L. failure to bring out Directories**

622. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.T.N.L. has failed to bring out directories for the metros even after a gap of more than five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the decade by which these directories are expected to see the light of the day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telephone directories for MTNL Delhi was last issued in December, 1994 and for Mumbai in 1995.

(b) A contract for Directory printing was drawn up and signed between MTNL and M/s M&N Publications in the year 1993. As per this contract, both main telephone directory and its supplementary issues were to be printed regularly for five years (from the year 1993 to 1998) every year. But breaching this agreement the company printed only one supplementary (1993 issue)and one main directory (1994 issue). Compelled by this contractual failure, MTNL management decided to terminate the contract with the company on 22.7.96.

(c) Fresh tender was once again called on 4th March, 1997 and based on the same a Letter of Intent has been issued to the selected firm for the Telephone Directory in Delhi. As soon as the firm completes the pre-contract formalities, the contract will be awarded and progressive delivery of directories is expected to commence after six months from the date of the award of the contract. For Mumbai, tender formalities are begin completed for award.

However, for the convenience of the customers, MTNL has brought out the directory twice on CD-ROM which is readily available on all Customer Service Centres of MTNL.

**Basic Telecom Sector Circles**

623. SHRI NILOTPALBASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of basic telecom sector circles;

(b) the number of circles for which there has been no bids;

(c) the number of circles for which LOIs have been issued;

(d) the number of circles for which licences have been issued;

(e) the roll out plan of all the licences with all details like investment, number

of exchange, schedule of licence fee payments, the interconnect charges, etc.;

(f) the Government's assessment on the viability of these roll out plan; and

(g) the possible course to be adopted by Government for no bid circles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURAYASTHA): (a) There are twenty one Telecom circles for Basic Telephone service.

(b) Only one Circle (J&K Circle).

(c) Thirteen Circles.

(d) Six Circles (Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh).

(e) As per details given in Statement I, II and III (*see* below).

(f) No such assessment has been made.

(g) No decision has been taken in this regard.

**Statement-I**

| Name of the Licensee | Name of the Circles | Roll out plan in first three years (lines) | Likely investment in first three years (Rs. Cr). | No. of Exchanges |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hughes Ispat Ltd. | Maharashtra | 607900 | 2310.0 | 11 |
| Reliance Telecom Pvt. Ltd. | Gujarat | 288000 | 1094.4 | 21 |
| Eassar Comvission | Punjab | 525000 | 1995.0 | 7 |
| Telelink Network (India) Ltd. | Rajasthan | 146909 | 558.2 | 17 |
| Tata Teleservices | Andhra Pradesh | 3,00,000 | 1140.0 | 14 |
| Bharati Telenet | Madhya Pradesh | 1,50,000 | 570.0 | 26 |

**Statement-II**

Licence Fee Payment Schedule of the Licences

(*Figures in Rs. Crores*)

| Year No. | Andhra Pradesh | Gujarat | Maharashtra | Punjab | Madhya Pradesh | Rajasthan |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 120 | 97.038 | 397.4 | 131.24 | 18.70 | 32.00 |
| 2. | 120 | 97.038 | 397.4 | 131.24 | 18.70 | 128.00 |
| 3. | 120 | 97.038 | 397.4 | 131.24 | 18.70 | 100.00 |
| 4. | 120 | 97.038 | 397.4 | 131.24 | 18.70 | 50.00 |
| 5. | 120 | 97.038 | 397.4 | 131.24 | 18.70 | 50.00 |
| 6. | 240 | 194.076 | 794.8 | 262.48 | 37.40 | 50.00 |
| 7. | 240 | 194.076 | 794.8 | 262.48 | 112. | 50.00 |
| 8. | 240 | 194.076 | 794.8 | 262.48 | 112.2 | 50.00 |
| 9. | 240 | 194.076 | 794.8 | 262.48 | 112.2 | 50.00 |
| 10. | 240 | 194.076 | 794.8 | 262.48 | 93.50 | 50.00 |
| 11. | 480 | 388.152 | 1589.6 | 524.96 | 37.40 | 100.00 |

| Year No. | Andhra Pradesh | Gujarat | Maharashtra | Punjab | Madhya Pradesh | Rajasthan |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | 480 | 388.152 | 1589.6 | 524.96 | 56.10 | 100.00 |
| 13. | 480 | 388.152 | 1589.6 | 524.96 | Nil | 100.00 |
| 14. | 960 | 388.152 | 1589.6 | 524.96 | Nil | 100.00 |
| 15. | Nil | 388.152 | 1589.6 | 524.96 | Nil | 100.00 |

**Statement-III**

*Interconnect Charges (valid for initial three years)*

| Sl. No. | Demand for No. of PCMs given by the LICENSEE to DOT in each exchange. | Annual interconnect port charge per PCM termination (excluding the cost of infrastructure viz land, building, air-conditioning etc.) (In Rupees) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2 PCM | 2,16,200/- |
| 2. | 4 PCM | 1,08,100/- |
| 3. | 8 PCM | 54,100/- |
| 4. | 16 PCM | 30,600/- |
| 5. | 32 PCM | 20,400/- |
| 6. | 64 PCM | 15,400/- |
| 7. | 128 PCM | 12,900/- |

*NOTE*: The operator has option to either opt for graded scale of port charges as mentioned above for entire service area or Rs. 54,100/- per PCM termination in respect of each exchange in the service area. The option once exercised shall be final.

**Representation for Re-Scheduling and Waiver of Licence Fees**

624. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Cellular operators Association of India praying for re-scheduling and waiver of licence fees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has requested for a two year moratorium on payment of licence fees by Cellular Operators as well as an increase in Licence period from 10 years to 15 years keeping the same Net Present Value of the licence fee to be paid. The Government have requested the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Pricing (BICP) to carry out a detailed techno-economic study of the Cellular Indus-